

lon and His glory. "A great and a marvelous work is about to be introduced to the earth," saith the Lord, and if we have examined those few things pertaining to it, tell me, is not the prediction fulfilled, has not the Lord kept his word in the unfolding of His Church, the outlines of which I have briefly and imperfectly sketched?

But then, as yet, we are merely like children playing upon the beach, we have simply gathered a few pretty shells and pebbles upon the beach; but let me say that the great ocean lies before us, still unexplored and still unknown. Such is the marvelous work as I understand its development thus far. Now in the midst of this unfolding of the purposes of God and the intelligence of heaven, side by side with it, has been a glorious experience for the Saints. The purposes of God have not failed, but they are being accomplished in spite of all the efforts that have been and are being made to oppose them. Our pathway has been strewn with successes. Now a great many who are but superficially acquainted with our history may be inclined to doubt that. They may ask, "Were you successful in Missouri, from which your church was driven? Were you successful in Nauvoo from whence you were expelled? Have you been successful in this Territory, where your enemies have gained triumph after triumph over you?" Yes, we have been successful in the past, and we are successful today.

Let me call your attention to a few items that may illustrate this seemingly paradoxical position which I have taken. There were given to the Patriarch Joseph, the son of Jacob, in his youth, a number of visions. Among them, I remember, was one wherein he dreamed that in harvest time, when all the sheaves of grain in the field had been gathered together, his brothers' sheaves came and bowed to his. On another occasion he saw the sun, the moon and the stars doing obeisance to him. But these things so offended his elder brethren, and on one occasion when he visited them at some distance from his fathers' home they captured him and said, "Let us now sell this dreamer." They appeared to understand the interpretation of their brother's dreams. They seemed to know that they must how to him if these things were fulfilled, and said, "Let us now cut off this dreamer, that we be not in subjection to him." Having captured him they sold him into slavery. He went into Egypt, he fell into misfortunes there, and was cast into prison. Were those successes? Did this look as if that was the path to empire, and control, and dominion over his fellows? And how did it terminate? Why, the very evil that his brethren sought to do him was only the means of bringing to pass the very thing they aimed to avoid. He was sold into Egypt as a slave, but God was with him and gained him favor in the eyes of the nation where he had been sojourning until he became second in authority and had to direct

the administration of the affairs of that great kingdom.

By and bye we see the dreams fulfilled; his brethren came into his presence and bowed themselves down—did obeisance unto him; and even his aged father came to him to be succored and blessed in his old age. Now, then, was Joseph's life successful? Yes. Notwithstanding those reverses which overtook him, in every misfortune he scored a success. Was the mission of Jesus Christ a success? He came and was hailed by some as "King of the Jews." He told the people that He was the Son of God, that He was the One of whom the Prophets had spoken, that He was the Savior and the Light of the world; but they rejected Him. They hounded His footsteps, they set traps for His feet, they watched His outgoing and His incoming, they tried to ensnare Him in His words, and at last they did succeed in finding a traitor who would deliver Him into their hands. After judgment had been passed upon Him they crowned Him, they smote Him with their hands, spat upon Him, crowned Him with thorns, and in mockery draped him with purple, in those days the insignia of royalty. Was the life of Jesus, then, a success? They dragged Him before Pontius Pilate and insisted that he should sanction the sentence of death which they had passed upon Him, and he was weak and cowardly enough to accede to their demands. They fastened Him upon the cross and to humiliate Him they placed on either side a common thief. Yet what was all this? Why, it was the fulfillment of the mission to which He had been appointed. As His spirit went out from His body, which was rent with agony, it rose in triumph instead of defeat. For that end He had come into the world, that His blood might atone for the sins of many, and that He might become "the resurrection and the life." Furthermore, that His spirit, in its disembodied state, might go to the world of spirits, unlock the door of the prison-house and start the preaching of the Gospel to those who had been held in bondage. Was not all this success? Was it not all triumph? Certainly it was; and so will it turn out to be with the experience of the Latter-day Saints, however sorrowful it may have been in the past, or still may be in the future.

I think there is no blunder so far as concerns the main object and establishment of the work of God in the earth in relation to its fulfilling its destiny. For instance, when Joseph Smith was confined in Liberty jail, when his soul was bowed down with anguish, and his people were being driven *en masse* before the brutality of a legalized mob, his load seemed heavier than he could carry. In the anguish of his heart he cried to his God from within the prison cell, and he was told that all the experience through which he was passing, the sorrow of heart, the affliction—all this was for his good, and

and the Son of God reminded him that He Himself had endured it all.

So it is with the Saints. If it were not treasonable to say so, we might repeat the words of the Apostle Paul, who maintained that the Saints yet should judge the world, and who appeared to believe the declarations made by Daniel when he said that the kingdom and the dominion and greatness of the kingdom under the whole heavens should be given to the Saints of the Most High God to possess it. Now I believe both Paul and Daniel in this matter, however unpopular it may be to state that belief; and if the Saints are to occupy this exalted position, it is quite proper that they should have actual experience to qualify them to discharge with honor and dignity, and justice the duties which would devolve upon them.

I think that we are gaining a very valuable training in civil government. Our writers tell us how government springs from society—that society exists first and then government. Still, while this is their theory it is our practical experience. Being refused protection in the Christian land of the United States, our fathers came to this land and inherited it. There was no government or power of government exercised over them at that time. It was very questionable, if you remember, whether this section of country would fall into the hands of the British government or whether the United States would succeed in establishing their claim upon it. So that we had no territorial organization for a number of years after our fathers came here; but we did have society, and we began the creation of a State. We had a few of the simple regulations that writers on civil government tell us about, and those regulations were very wise ones. For example, it was agreed by this society that no man should have more land than he could cultivate. He was not allowed to hold a monopoly of the land, but was to take that only which he could properly cultivate, leaving the rest for those who were to come after him. Then, again, water was quite essential to success in the tilling of these arid wastes. It was decided that no man should be permitted to monopolize these mountain streams, and then dole out the water at a high price to his neighbors; but the water was to be free, like the air and like the soil. To all these wise regulations Utah owes her prosperity today.

Now, there were no courts to enforce those regulations; there were no marshals to arrest those who attempted to violate them. We lived here in peace and in harmony without a government, and from this society, regulated by those simple rules, eventually began the evolution of a government. We petitioned for statehood and they gave us a Territory. Perhaps the Lord thought we were not sufficiently schooled, that our experience was not sufficiently great to justify Him in inspiring the hearts of the leaders of this nation to give us a sovereign State. No, it was necessary that